GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:554
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
PROMOTION OF MINOR INDIAN LANGUAGES
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of minor Indian languages in the country,language-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of scheme prepared and implemented by the Government for development and promotion of minor Indian languages;

(c) whether consultations have been held with the concerned Ministries for getting funds to implement the scheme;and

(d) if so,the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): The official website of the National Commissioner Linguistic Minorities(NCLM),Allahabad viz. nclm.nic.in clarifies that there is no provision for recognition of any Indian language as a minority language.It is automatically defined when it is not the mother tongue of the majority of the people in the State. The minority languages are those,which are other than the principal language in a State,but these may be the major languages,which are spoken in other States where they are the principal language.There may be languages confined to a small region or spoken by a small number of people and the NCLM calls such languages as 'minor languages'.However,the NCLM has taken the liberty of including other languages,which are spoken by a large number of people and in different States over a fairly large area but have not been accepted,due to historical reasons,in either the educational stream or the administration.

The list of 100 non-scheduled/minor Indian languages (other than the 22 Indian languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India) provided by the Office of the Registrar General and Census ommissioner,India(RGCCI), is given at Annexure-A.The detailed language-wise and State-wise break-up of the males,females and total number of speakers of the 100 non-scheduled Indian languages as per 2001 census is already in the public domain in the official website of RGCCI viz. censusindia.gov.in

(b) to (d): A draft Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC) note titled 'New Scheme for the Preservation and Development of Languages not covered by the 8th Schedule(Bharat Bhasha Vikas Yojana)' was prepared by the Department of Higher Education and circulated to various Ministries including Planning Commission and comments of some have not been received as yet.The Government can take further action on the proposal only after receipt of comments on the draft EFC from all concerned.